

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-27, 29 and 31-41 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16, 18-20, 25-27, 29, 31-33, 37-38 and 40-41 amended and Claims 11 and 30 canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-5, 7-8, 14-15, 18-24, 26-27, 33-34, 37-38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Patent Publication No. U.S. 2004/0254911 to Grasso et al.; and Claims 6 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grasso et al. and further in view of Official Notice.

Turning now to the merits, Applicants' invention is directed to a system and method for easily storing document information in an application service provider (ASP). As described in the background section of Applicants' specification, homeowners and businesses are frequently turning to ASPs for offsite storage of important documents.¹ However, ASPs conventionally require a user to interface with complex menus on the ASP site in order to store a document.² This can be time consuming and frustrating, particularly to a user unfamiliar with the ASP site. Applicants' invention is directed to simplifying the ASP storage process.

Specifically, independent Claim 1, as amended, recites a method of storing document information in an application service provider (ASP) which is connected to a user terminal through a network. The method includes inputting the document information into the user terminal, and inputting a previously created folder e-mail address into the user terminal, the folder e-mail address being confirmed by the ASP and corresponding to a storage folder in a document database of the ASP. Also recited is sending the document information to the

¹ Applicants' specification at paragraph [0002].

² Applicants' specification at paragraph [0003].

folder e-mail address via the network so that the ASP can store document information at the storage location in the document database. Independent Claims 10 and 12 have been similarly amended to clarify that the e-mail address input to the user terminal is a folder e-mail address that corresponds to a storage folder in the ASP, and further recite details of how the folder e-mail addresses are created. Independent Claims 20, 29, 31 and 38 recite similar limitations in system and means plus function format. It is how clarified correspondence of the folder e-mail address to the ASP storage folder that allows the simple transfer and storage of documents to a remote ASP.

Grasso et al. discloses a system and method for providing document recommendations to a user. For example, where a user prints a database document that is relevant to a work project performed by the user, the database may include other documents unknown to the user but relevant to the work project. The system of Grasso et al. identifies these other relevant documents and recommends such documents to the user. As discussed in Grasso et al., the recommendation can be generated based on various recommendation criteria.³ Further, in the embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 2 and 3, the recommendation services are provided on a remote service provider 210 which also offers various services such as processing print requests for user printer 112, and storing documents that are scanned by the user scanner 410. However, there is no indication in Grasso et al. of the claimed features relating to storage of documents to the service provider 210 via e-mail.

The outstanding Official Action cites the following paragraphs of Grasso et al. as meeting the e-mail limitations of Applicants' independent claims.

[0007] Network office appliances are emerging in the office environment. Network office appliances are boxes that can be plugged into an office network and configured via a standard Internet interface. *The services they offer via the network range from file storage to Internet access or email services. An example of a network office appliance service is the Ricoh*

³ Grasso et al. at paragraph [0027].

eCabinet. The eCabinet captures documents that have been printed, faxed, scanned or emailed and builds a digital archive of these documents. The eCabinet then indexes textual information, which has been extracted via optical character recognition, and allows users to browse and search the digital archive. Given the potentially very high volume of data, the device maintains a cache on a hard-disk of the most used documents while recording less frequently used documents on a DVD storage. Handling the DVD-based backup involves some level of administration.

[0034] The system uses a networked printer or other recording device to collect implicit ratings on documents from users in a non-intrusive way. ***Access to the services is also available directly from the printer, or through standard electronic interfaces, such as via a browser, e-mail interface or document management system interface.*** Below are described a set of methods for calculating three different kinds of similarity measures and also describing possible implementation of user interfaces for the system.

Thus, paragraph 7 of Grasso et al. mentions that the services offered by network office appliances may include e-mail services and that Ricoh's e-cabinet can "capture" documents that have been e-mailed and build a digital archive of these documents. However, this disclosure refers to e-mails themselves as the documents to be archived, but does not indicate that the e-mail documents are "captured" by a parallel e-mail to the office appliance. Indeed, paragraph 7 does not hint at how the documents are "captured" at all. Similarly, paragraph 34 of Grasso et al. merely mentions that "access to services is" available by e-mail interface, in the context of collecting implicit ratings of documents from users. Applicants submit that the highlighted text of paragraph 34 above provides no details of what "services" are available by e-mail and how they are available.

Thus, Applicants submit that paragraphs 7 and 34 of Grasso et al. are insufficient to teach or suggest that documents to be archived in an ASP are sent to the ASP by e-mail. In fact, as explained in the October 24, 2005 amendment, Grasso et al. makes clear that the

printer 112 and scanner 110 exchange information with the service provider 210 by way of a direct network connection rather than by way of e-mail.⁴

Nevertheless, even assuming that it can be gleaned from Grasso et al. that documents are sent to a remote service provider by e-mail, there is no hint or suggestion in this reference that the ASP e-mail address is a folder e-mail address that corresponds to a storage folder in the ASP. That is, Grasso et al. in no way teaches or suggests “inputting a previously created folder e-mail address into a user terminal, the folder e-mail address being confirmed by the ASP and corresponding to a storage folder in a document database of the ASP,” or “sending the document information to the e-mail address so that the ASP can store the document as required information at the storage location in the document database” as required by Claims 1, 10, 12, 20, 29, 31 and 38. Without these claimed features of the present invention, Grasso et al. cannot provide the simple ASP storage method and system to which Applicants claims are directed.

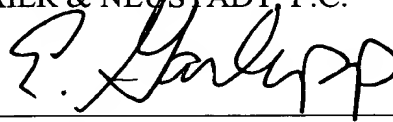
Thus, independent Claims 1, 10, 12, 20, 29, 31 and 38 patentably define over the cited reference to Grasso et al. Moreover, as the remaining pending claims in this case depend from one of the distinguished independent claims, these dependent claims also patentably define over the cited references.

⁴ See Grasso et al. at paragraph [0059], [0061] and [0064].

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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